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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT TOPIC KVP Activity in the Area of Mechanized Division PotsdamEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 8 November 1954

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. During the night of 23 September 1954, KVPs with tanks and trucks were detained at Eden and returned to the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg.¹ It was said that the harvest employment of KVPs had terminated by 15 October.
2. On 18 October, the reconditioning work at the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp was not completed. Two brick buildings about 35 meters long each were still under construction.
3. At 2400 on 8 October, 18 BA-64 armored scout cars came from the direction of Oranienburg and entered the former concentration camp.
4. Between 29 September and 18 October, approximately 300 to 800 KVPs were engaged in close-order drill, training on obstacle courses, practice with AA guns and hand grenades, field training, and firing practice at the Klinkerwerke. About 18 x 37-mm AA guns and 10 AA machine guns were observed. Several tanks practiced repeatedly near the KVP quarters and near Schmachtenhagen (east of Oranienburg). 2
5. A large number of trees were cut in the woods between Lehnitz and Borgsdorf (south of Oranienburg). On 14 October, a KVP fatigue detail did excavation work in the same area allegedly for construction of a new training ground. 3

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6. a wooded area of 600 hectares southeast of Oranienburg was to be cleared probably for the construction of a firing range. Most of the area belonged to the Borgsdorf forest district, while the other parts belonged to Briesse and Zuehlsdorf. 3

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7. a new training ground of about 850 x 450 meters was built about 100 meters east and along the Oranienburg-Berlin elevated railroad. 3

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8. At 1700 on 4 October, the last car of side-tracked train was unloaded by KVP personnel at the Oranienburg freight station. The KVPs left toward the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp. 1
9. Between 30 September and 15 October, about 350 recruits were repeatedly observed at basic training and firing practice on platoon level at the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. Trained personnel in company strength left the kaserne toward the Jaeger target ranges; other personnel did close order drill or were engaged in maintenance work on weapons vehicles and equipment. On 15 October, four SU-76 from the Ruinenberg Kaserne practiced driving on Bornstedter Feld immediately north of Potsdam. Most of the KVPs wore blue service color.
10. [redacted] pass photos of about 400 KVP recruits from the Ruinenberg Kaserne were made during the previous days. 4
11. Between 30 September and 6 October, the Garde du Corps Kaserne in Potsdam was occupied by 450 to 500 KVPs, including probably 70 to 80 recruits. The KVPs wore red-bordered black collar patches. The training activity was similar to that at the Ruinenberg Kaserne. Practice with 37-mm AA guns was also observed. Between 9 and 19 October, however, comparatively little activity was seen and the installation was less occupied. The ruined western wing of the kaserne will allegedly be rebuilt. 5
12. During the night of 8 October and on 19 October, two trucks, each occupied by 16 KVPs with blue service color and towing a 57-mm AT gun, were leaving and entering the General Wever Kaserne in Potsdam - Eiche. At 1500 on 11 October, four trucks, each occupied by 16 KVP with claret service color, left the kaserne. 6
13. In early October, the following officers of the signal battalion in Potsdam-Eiche (Dienststelle Potsdam V) were identified (first names unknown): Senior Lieutenant Fischer as commanding officer, Senior Lieutenant Kaiser as deputy commander, Senior Lieutenant Krueger as chief of staff, Senior Lieutenant Lotze as political officer. The signal battalion numbered 110 to 120 KVPs and was organized into a headquarters company, a training company, a radio company and a telephone company.
14. At 1300 on 4 October, a KVP train of 6 boxcars with about 30 KVPs each, 8 flatcars, each carrying an armored personnel carrier, 10 flatcars, each carrying a light AA gun with a truck, and 8 flatcars with trucks, field kitchens and ambulances left the Schoenhausen railroad station and proceeded toward Rathenow. 7
15. During the night of 2 October, about 20 trucks, each occupied by 15 to 20 KVPs but no heavy weapons, arrived at the KVP installation on Brandenburger Chaussee at Premnitz from the south. Following this arrival, the installation was occupied by 400 to 500 KVPs. Since most of the personnel were detached for harvesting or were on furlough by 8 October, the installation was occupied by 50 to 100 KVPs only between 9 and 18 October. 2, 8

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16. On and after 10 October, most of the troop training ground east of Klietz was again open to traffic. Only a tank unit conducted daily firing practices in an area 1.5 to 2 km north of the advanced airfield. 2

1. [] Comment. The report confirms previous information on KVP trains. [] 25X1
[] 25X1
2. [] Comment. Recent fluctuations in the occupation strength result from the rotation of KVP units between the post and the troop training grounds east of Klietz, and from rather large detachments for harvesting. On 6 October 1954, the training at the troop training grounds east of Klietz during the 1954 training period apparently terminated. [] 25X1
[] 25X1
3. [] Comment. KVP units from Oranienburg have been repeatedly observed training in this area. [] 25X1
paragraph 1. It is believed that the area will serve as training ground of the KVP post. [] 25X1
4. [] 25X1
5. [] Comment. In late September 1954, the entire AAA regiment of Mechanized Division Potsdam probably returned to its home station from the AAA firing range near Zingst. [] 25X1
6. [] 25X1
7. [] Comment. The KVP train which probably carried a unit back to Oranienburg confirms the train reported [] 25X1
[] 25X1
8. [] Comment. The mortar regiment of Mechanized Division Potsdam is stationed at Premnitz. During the night of 2 October 1954, large contingents of the regiment probably returned from the troop training grounds east of Klietz. [] 25X1
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